



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 16, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Kathleen B. Cooper  
Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

From: William G. Barron, Jr.  
Acting Director

Subject: Notification of Decision

I am attaching the recommendation of the Executive Steering Committee for A.C.E. Policy (ESCAP) on whether the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Survey should be used to adjust Census 2000 data for non-redistricting purposes. As in March, I asked ESCAP to provide a recommendation because I rely on the knowledge, experience, and technical expertise of the Committee and Census Bureau staff who have worked extremely hard with tremendous dedication and expertise through every phase of Census 2000.

After assessing considerable new evidence, ESCAP now recommends that unadjusted Census 2000 data be used for non-redistricting purposes. The effect of this new evidence is that the A.C.E. overstated the net undercount by at least 3 million persons. The cause of this error was that the A.C.E. failed to measure a significant number of census erroneous enumerations, many of which were duplicates. This level of error in the A.C.E. measurement of net coverage is such that the A.C.E. results cannot be used in their current form. This finding of substantial error, in conjunction with remaining uncertainties, necessitates that revisions, based on additional review and analysis, be made to the A.C.E. estimates before any potential uses of these data can be considered.

As a member of ESCAP and as Acting Director, I concur with and approve the Committee's recommendation that unadjusted data be used for non-redistricting purposes and have decided that the Census Bureau will release the remaining Census 2000 data products, post-censal estimates, and survey controls using unadjusted data. It is possible that further research and analysis could yield revised A.C.E. estimates, and that these revised estimates could be used to improve estimates developed as part of the Census Bureau's annual population adjustments for survey controls and other purposes.

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